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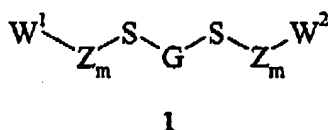
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the current application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of ~~a the~~ formula 1:



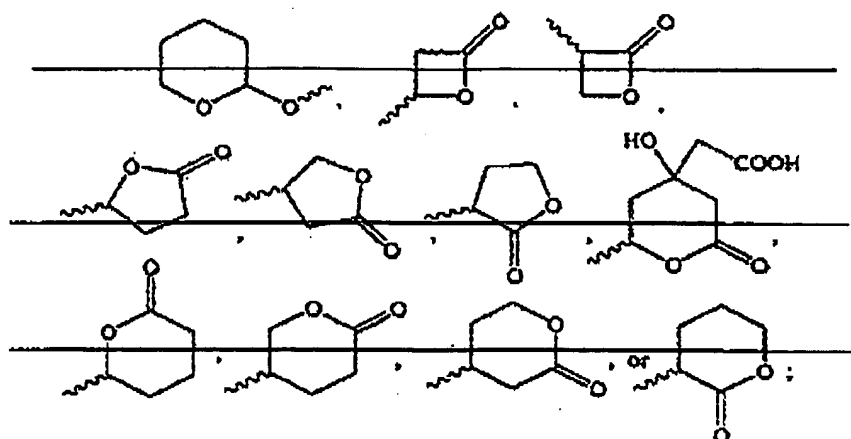
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or mixture thereof, wherein

- (a) each occurrence of Z is ~~independently CH<sub>2</sub>, CH=CH, or phenyl, and where each~~ occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9, ~~but when Z is phenyl then its associated m is 1;~~
- (b) G is (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>, where x is 2, 3, or 4, ~~CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>, CH=CH, CH<sub>2</sub>-phenyl-CH<sub>2</sub>, or phenyl;~~
- (c) W<sup>1</sup> and W<sup>2</sup> are independently L, V, ~~or~~ C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>-C(R<sup>3</sup>)(R<sup>4</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Y, ~~or~~ C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>-V where c is 1 or 2 and n is an integer ranging from 0 to 4;
- (d) each occurrence of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl or when one or both of W<sup>1</sup> and W<sup>2</sup> is C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>-C(R<sup>3</sup>)(R<sup>4</sup>)-Y, then R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> can both be H to form a methylene group; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a ~~(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl~~ (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl group;
- (e) each occurrence of R<sup>3</sup> or R<sup>4</sup> is independently H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, phenyl, benzyl, Cl, Br, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, or CF<sub>3</sub>, with the proviso that when R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are both H, then one of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is not H;
- (f) L is C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Y where n is an integer from 0 to 4;

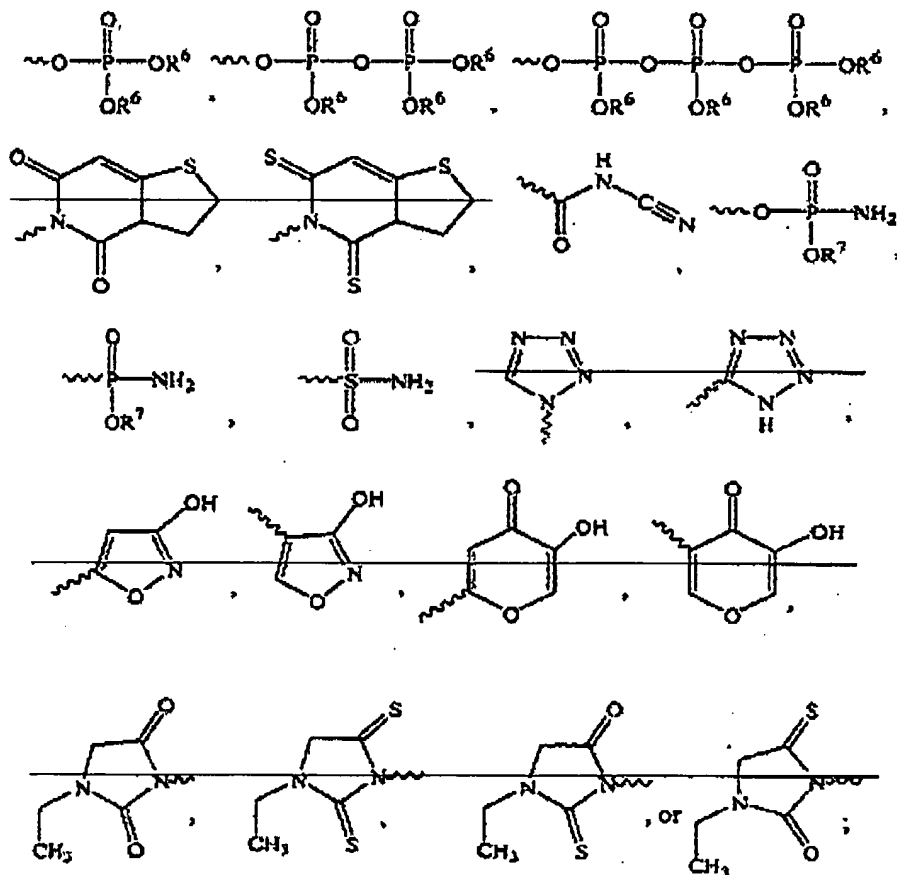
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(h)(g) each occurrence of Y is independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, COOR<sup>5</sup>, SO<sub>3</sub>H,



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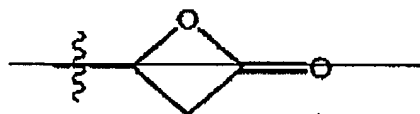
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where

- (i)  $R^5$  is  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups,
- (ii) each occurrence of  $R^6$  is independently H,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl, or  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and
- (iii) each occurrence of  $R^7$  is independently H,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl, or  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl; and

provided that:

- ~~(i) if G is  $(CH_2)_x$ , x is 2, each occurrence of Z is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of m is 1, and  $W^1$  is of the structure~~



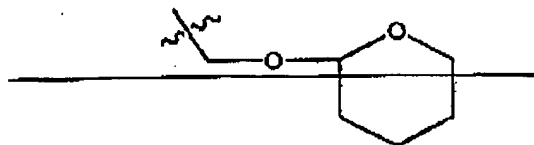
~~then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ;~~

- ~~(ii)(i) if G is  $(CH_2)_x$ , x is 2, each occurrence of Z is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of m is 3, and  $W^1$   $-C(CH_3)_2CO_2CH_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ;~~
- ~~(iii)(ii) if G is  $(CH_2)_x$ , x is 3, each occurrence of Z is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of m is 5, and  $W^1$   $-C(CH_3)_2CO_2CH_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ; and~~
- ~~(iv)(iii) if G is  $(CH_2)_x$ , x is 3, each occurrence of Z is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of m is 5, and  $W^1$   $-CCl_2CO_2CH_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ; and~~
- ~~(v) if G is phenyl, each occurrence of Z is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of m is 4, and  $W^1$  is of the structure~~

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then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ .

Claim 2 (currently amended). The compound of claim 1, wherein:

- (a)  $W^1$  and  $W^2$  are independently both  $L$ ,  $V$ , or  $C(R^1)(R^2)(CH_2)_nV$  where  $n$  is 1 or 2; and
- (b)  $R^1$  or  $R^2$  are independently  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The compound of claim 2 1, wherein  $W^1$  is  $L$ .

Claim 4 (canceled).

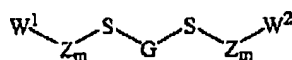
Claim 5 (currently amended). The compound of claim 2 1, wherein  $W^1$  is  $C(R^1)(R^2)(CH_2)_nC(R^3)(R^4)(CH_2)_mY$  where  $n$  is an integer from 0 to 4.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (original). The compound of claim 2, wherein  $W^1$  and  $W^2$  are independent  $L$  groups.

Claim 8 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein each occurrence of  $Y$  is independently  $OH$ ,  $COOR^5$ , or  $COOH$ .

Claim 9 (currently amended). A compound of the formula Ia:



Ia

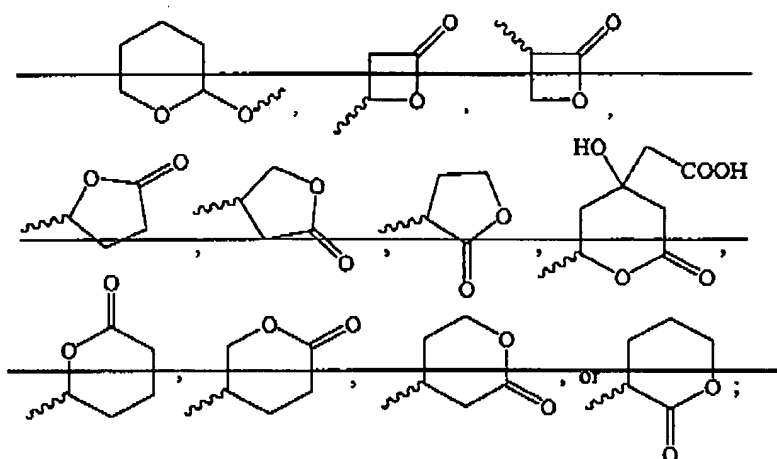
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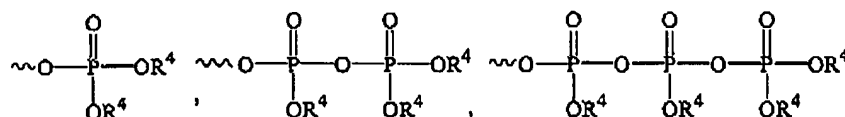
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

- (a) each occurrence of Z is independently  $\text{CH}_2$  or  $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ , wherein each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9;
- (b) G is  $(\text{CH}_2)_x$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2$ , or  $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ , where x is 2, 3, or 4;
- (c)  $\text{W}^1$  and  $\text{W}^2$  are independently L, V, or  $\text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{R}^2)(\text{CH}_2)_e\text{V}$ , where e is 1 or 2;
- (d) each occurrence of  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  is independently  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a  $(\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7)$ cycloalkyl group;
- (e) L is  $\text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{R}^2)(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{V}$ , where n is an integer ranging from 0 to 4;
- (f)  $\text{V}$  is



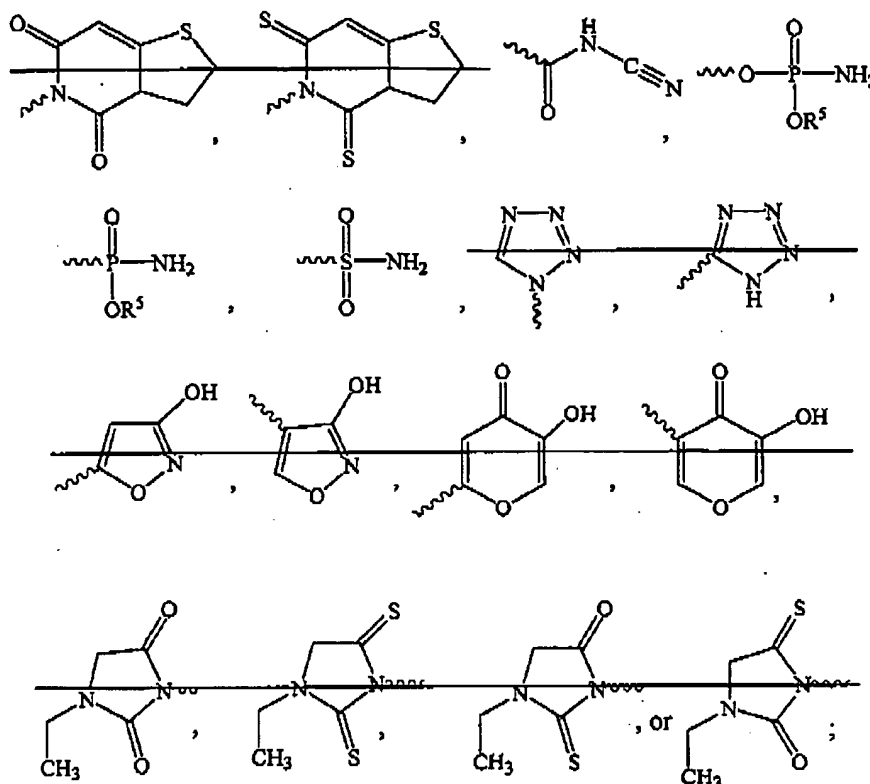
- (g)(f) each occurrence of Y is independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, COOR<sup>3</sup>, SO<sub>3</sub>H,



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where

(i)  $\text{R}^3$  is  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH,  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii) each occurrence of  $\text{R}^4$  is independently H,  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl, or  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and

(iii) each occurrence of  $\text{R}^5$  is independently H,  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl, or  $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl; and

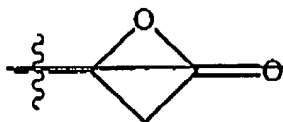
provided that:

(i) ~~if  $x$  is 2, each occurrence of  $\text{Z}$  is  $\text{CH}_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 1, and  $\text{W}^1$  is of the structure~~

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~~then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ;~~

~~(ii)(i)~~ if  $x$  is 2, each occurrence of  $Z$  is  $\text{CH}_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 3, and  $W^1$   $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ;

~~(iii)(ii)~~ if  $x$  is 3, each occurrence of  $Z$  is  $\text{CH}_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 5, and  $W^1$   $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ; and

~~(iv)(iii)~~ if  $x$  is 3, each occurrence of  $Z$  is  $\text{CH}_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 5, and  $W^1$   $-\text{CCl}_2\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ .

Claims 10-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (original). The compound of claim 9, wherein  $W^1$  and  $W^2$  are independent  $L$  groups.

Claim 14 (original). The compound of claim 9, wherein each occurrence of  $Y$  is independently  $\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{COOR}^3$ , or  $\text{COOH}$ .

Claims 15-18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended). A compound according to claim 18 1, having the formula 5-[2-(4-carboxy-4-methyl-pentylsulfanyl)-ethylsufanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentanoic acid.

Claims 20-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

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Claim 35 (original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising one of the following compounds:

5-[2-(5-hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-pentasulfanyl)-ethoxysulfanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentan-1-ol or 5-[2-(4-Carboxy-4-methyl-pentylsulfanyl)-ethylsulfanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentanoic acid or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates, clathrates, enantiomers, diastereomers, racemates or mixtures of stereoisomers thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

Claim 36 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a cardiovascular disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

Claim 37 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a dyslipidemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

Claim 38 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a dyslipoproteinemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

Claim 39 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a disorder of glucose metabolism in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

Claim 40 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing Alzheimer's Disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.



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Claim 41 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing Syndrome X in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 42 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing septicemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 43 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a thrombotic disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 44 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor associated disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 45 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing obesity in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 46 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing pancreatitis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 47 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing hypertension in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

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Claim 48 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing renal disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 49 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing cancer in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 50 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing inflammation in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 51 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing impotence in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 52 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a neurodegenerative disease or disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 53 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting hepatic fatty acid synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 54 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting sterol synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 55 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing metabolic syndrome disorders in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment

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or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 56 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by increasing HDL levels, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 57 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by lowering LDL levels, which comprises administering to such patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.